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associating with at least one of the users a grant permission that enables the user to give to another user a user permission with respect to at least one of the digital facilities, and creating a user profile for each of the users, each of said user profiles including permission information with respect to the corresponding user.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 in which the user permission that is granted to another user comprises a perform permission.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1 in which the user permission that is granted to another user comprises a grant permission.

Sub 31 10. (Amended) The method of claim 1 in which the user can give another user both perform permission and grant permission.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 1 in which the digital facility comprises an application program, and the application defines permissions grantable to users.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 1 in which the users comprise companies and individuals who are associated with respective companies, and the user permission is characterized as, in the case of a company, a company permission that applies to individuals associated with the company and, in the case of an individual, an individual permission that applies individually to the individual.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 1 in which the user permission comprises an aggregate of permissions.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 13 in which the aggregate permissions of the user permission include fundamental permissions that have arguments of a common type.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 13 in which the user permission with respect to at least one of the digital facilities is determined by a combination of an individual permission and a company permission.

16. (Amended) A medium storing a software program that is capable of configuring a machine to:

make at least one digital facility available from a source to users via an electronic

communication medium,

associate with at least one of the users an access permission that enables the user to access at least one of the digital facilities,

associate with at least one of the users a grant permission that enables the user to give to another user a user permission with respect to at least one of the digital facilities, and

create a user profile for each of the users, each of said user profiles including permission information with respect to the corresponding user.

17. (Amended) Apparatus comprising

means for making at least one digital facility available from a source to users via an electronic communication medium,

means for associating with at least one of the users an access permission that enables the user to access at least one of the digital facilities,

means for associating with at least one of the users a grant permission that enables the user to give to another user a permission with respect to at least one of the digital facilities, and

means for creating a user profile for each of the users, each of said user profiles including permission information with respect to the corresponding user.

18. (Amended) Apparatus comprising

a source of digital facilities,

an electronic communication medium coupled between the source and users to make at least one of the digital facilities available to the users, and

storage means containing user profiles for each of the users, said user profile of each user including access information regarding the power of the user to access at least one of the digital facilities and grant information regarding the power of the user to grant a permission to another user with respect to at least one of the digital facilities.

19. (Amended) A method comprising

making business information of a portal-providing company available to individuals using a web server and web browsers,

associating with at least one of the individuals an access permission that enables the individual to access the business information,

associating with at least one of the individuals a grant permission that enables the

individual to give to another individual a permission with respect to the business information, and

creating a user profile for each of the individuals, each of said user profiles including permission information with respect to the corresponding individual.

20. (Amended) A method comprising providing a web site, using the web site, interacting with web browsers of users, in response to a request from a user to the web site, determining if the user has permission to have the request served in accordance with permission information contained in a user profile of the user, enabling, in accordance with permission information contained in a granting user's user profile, one of the users to grant to another of the users selectively either only a permission to have a particular type of request served, only a permission to grant other users the ability to grant permissions, or both.

21. (Amended) A method comprising maintaining a database of information that associates each user of a digital facility available from a source with permissions that define the rights of the user to access the digital facility or to grant to other users the rights with respect to the digital facility, or both, creating user profiles for each of the users in the database, each user profile containing the access and grant permission information of the corresponding user, and enabling a user who has the permission to do so, to alter the permissions associated with the user.

Please cancel claim 22 without prejudice or disclaimer.

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated April 25, 2002, which was paper #6 of the present application. Applicants amend claims 1-3, and 10-21 of the present application. Applicants cancel claim 22 of the application without prejudice or disclaimer. Pursuant to this amendment, claims 1-21 and 23-27 are pending. Reconsideration of all pending claims is